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THIS MARVEL® COMIC COULD BE WORTH $2500 TO YOU!
(DETAILS INSIDE)
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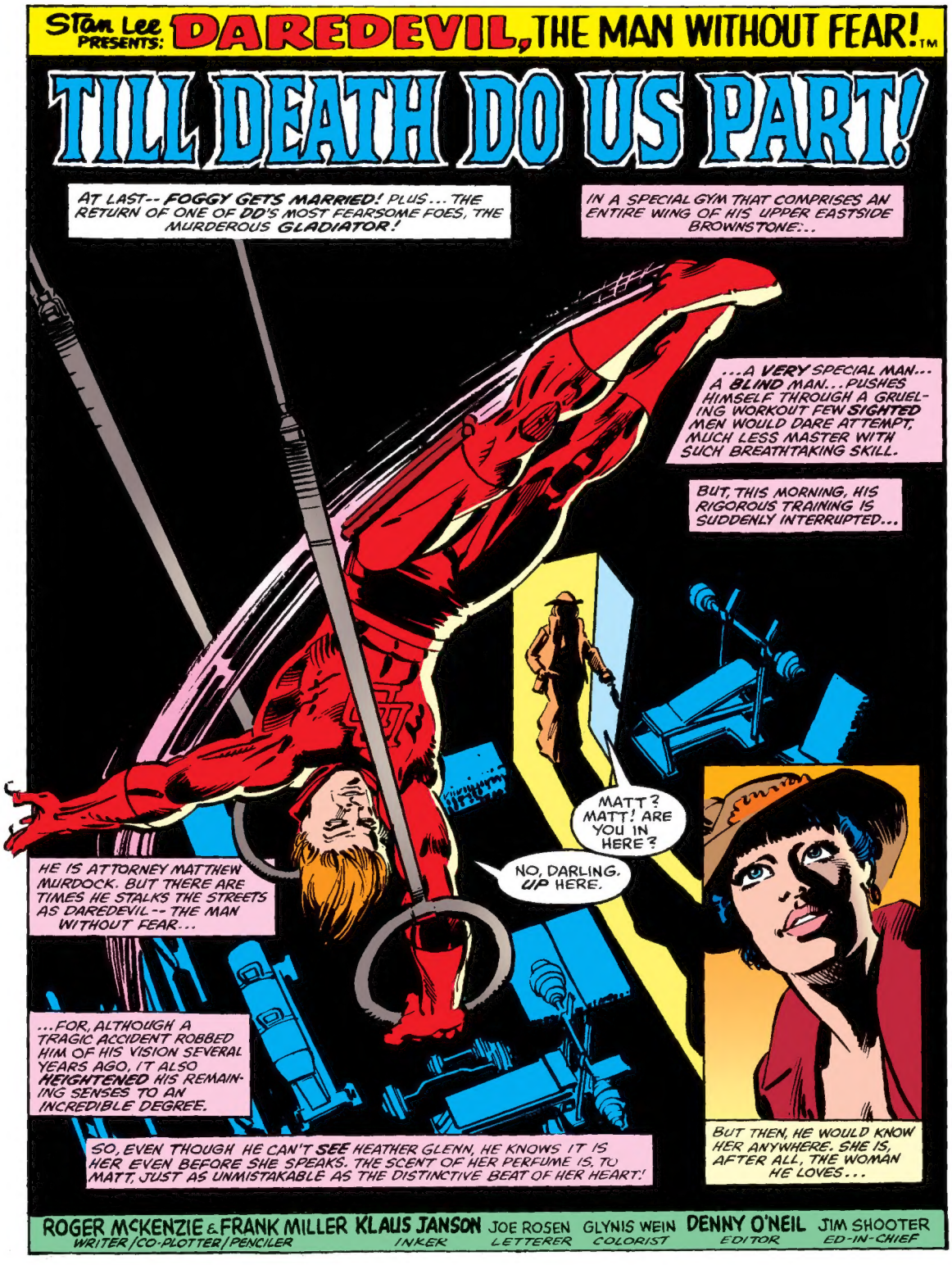
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MILLER SANSON



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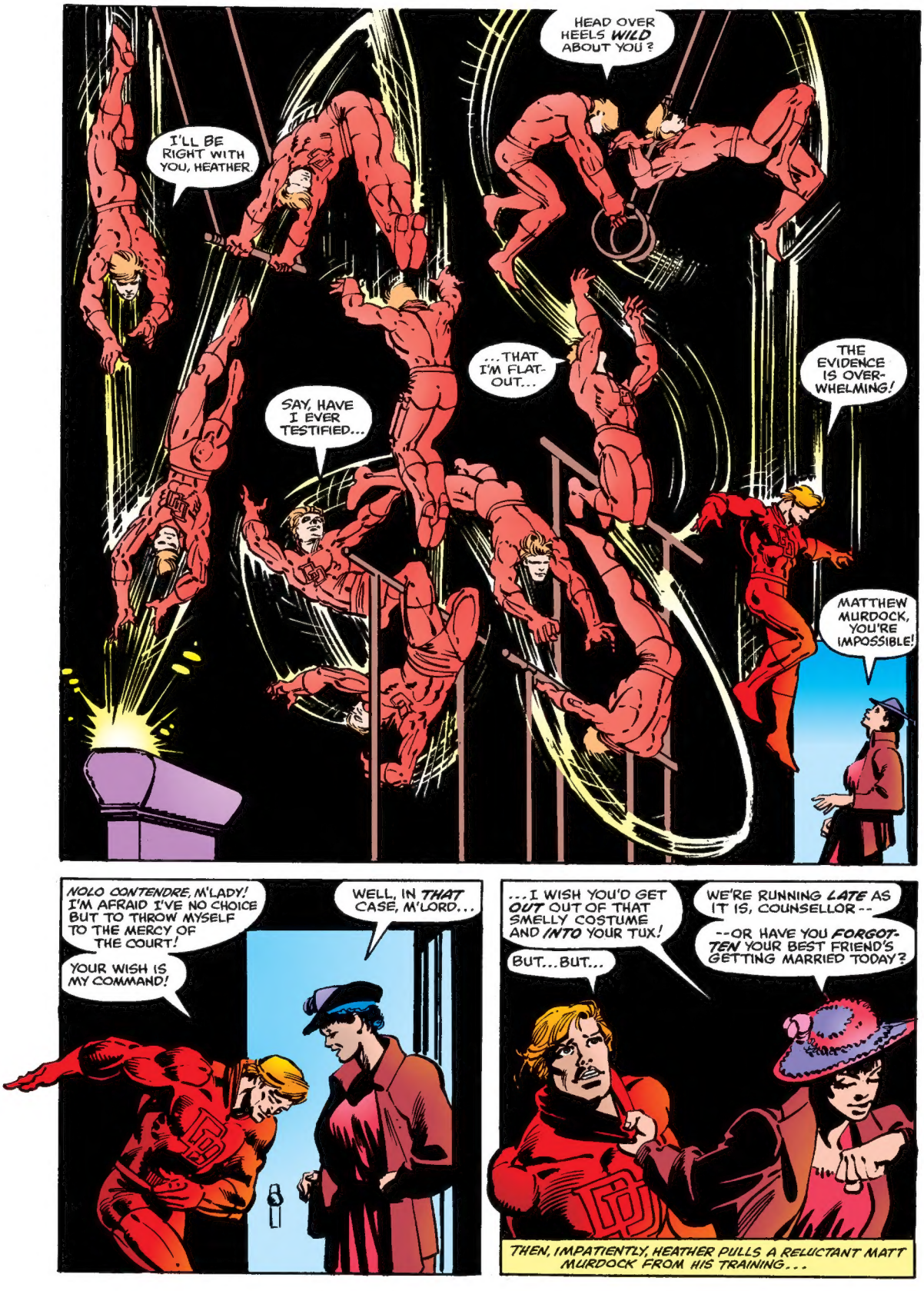
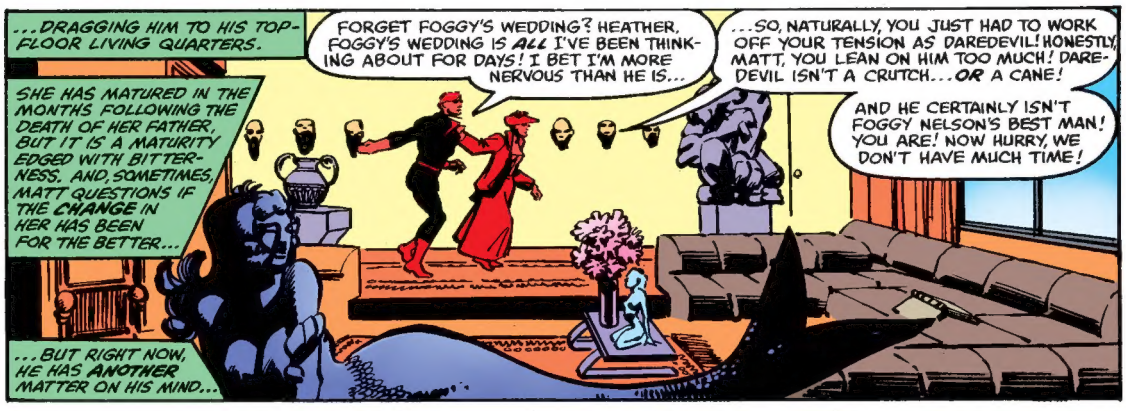
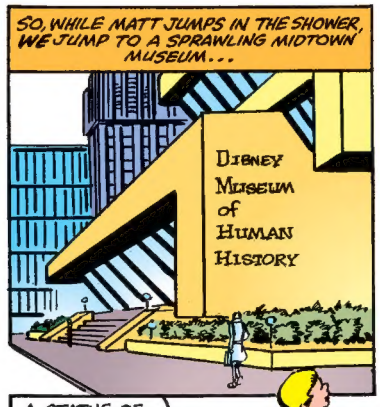
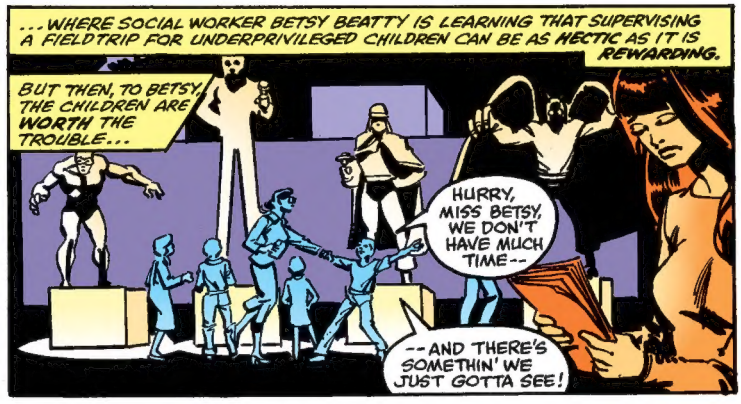
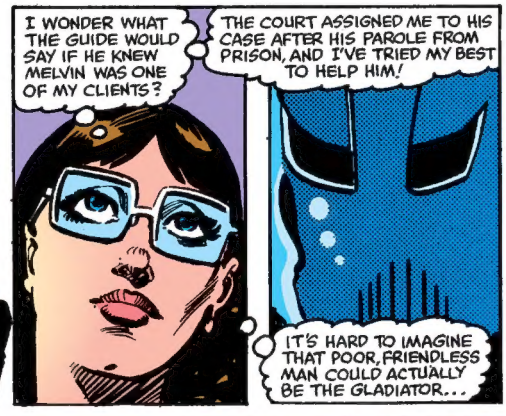

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, HEATHER.
HEAD OVER HEELS WILD ABOUT YOU?
SAY, HAVE I EVER TESTIFIED...
...THAT I'M FLAT-OUT...
THE EVIDENCE IS OVER-WHELMING!
MATTHEW MURDOCK, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE!
NOLO CONTENDRE, M'LADY! I'M AFRAID I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO THROW MYSELF TO THE MERCY OF THE COURT!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!
WELL, IN THAT CASE, M'LORD...
...I WISH YOU'D GET OUT OUT OF THAT SMELLY COSTUME AND INTO YOUR TUX!
BUT...BUT...
WE'RE RUNNING LATE AS IT IS, COUNSELLOR--
--OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR BEST FRIEND'S GETTING MARRIED TODAY?
THEN, IMPATIENTLY, HEATHER PULLS A RELUCTANT MATT MURDOCK FROM HIS TRAINING...


...DRAGGING HIM TO HIS TOP-FLOOR LIVING QUARTERS.
SHE HAS MATURED IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HER FATHER, BUT IT IS A MATURITY EDGED WITH BITTERNESS. AND, SOMETIMES, MATT QUESTIONS IF THE CHANGE IN HER HAS BEEN FOR THE BETTER...
...BUT RIGHT NOW, HE HAS ANOTHER MATTER ON HIS MIND...
FORGET FOGGY'S WEDDING? HEATHER, FOGGY'S WEDDING IS ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT FOR DAYS! I BET I'M MORE NERVOUS THAN HE IS...
...SO, NATURALLY, YOU JUST HAD TO WORK OFF YOUR TENSION AS DAREDEVIL! HONESTLY, MATT, YOU LEAN ON HIM TOO MUCH! DAREDEVIL ISN'T A CRUTCH...OR A CANE!
AND HE CERTAINLY ISN'T FOGGY NELSON'S BEST MAN! YOU ARE! NOW HURRY, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

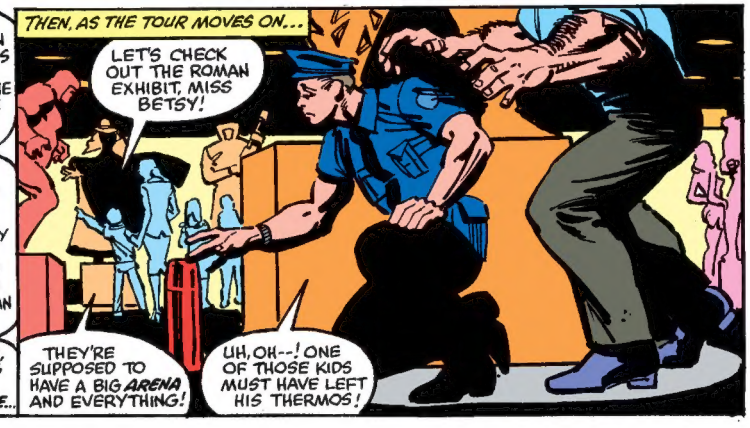

SO, WHILE MATT JUMPS IN THE SHOWER, WE JUMP TO A SPRAWLING MIDTOWN MUSEUM...
DIENEY MUSEUM of HUMAN HISTORY

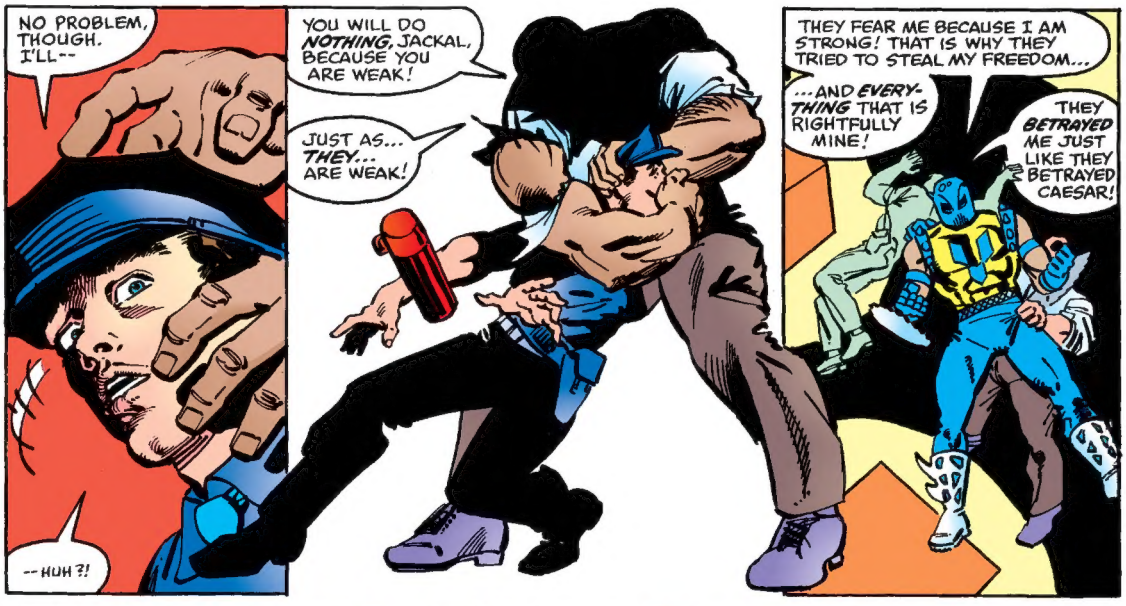

...WHERE SOCIAL WORKER BETSY BEATTY IS LEARNING THAT SUPERVISING A FIELDTRIP FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN CAN BE AS HECTIC AS IT IS REWARDING.
BUT THEN, TO BETSY, THE CHILDREN ARE WORTH THE TROUBLE...
HURRY, MISS BETSY, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME--
--AND THERE'S SOMETHIN' WE JUST GOTTA SEE!

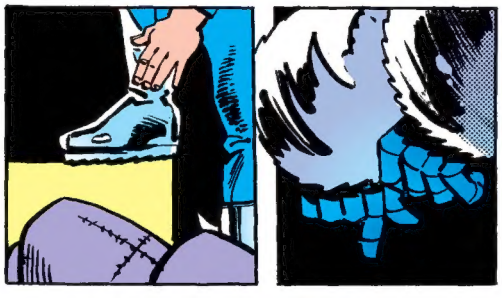
A STATUE OF THE GLADIATOR! I HOPE THAT DUDE NEVER GETS HIS HANDS ON ME!
--CONTINUING OUR EXPOSITION ON MAN AND HIS WEAPONRY THROUGHOUT THE AGES, WE COME TO MELVIN POTTER.
AS THE GLADIATOR, HE USED MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A STYLIZED VERSION OF ANCIENT ROMAN ARMOR!
YOU SEE, HERE, HIS ACTUAL COSTUME...


I WONDER WHAT THE GUIDE WOULD SAY IF HE KNEW MELVIN WAS ONE OF MY CLIENTS?
THE COURT ASSIGNED ME TO HIS CASE AFTER HIS PAROLE FROM PRISON, AND I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO HELP HIM!
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT POOR, FRIENDLESS MAN COULD ACTUALLY BE THE GLADIATOR...

...BUT I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE JUST HOW... FRIGHTENING...HE MUST LOOK IN THAT ARMOR!


THEN, AS THE TOUR MOVES ON...
LET'S CHECK OUT THE ROMAN EXHIBIT, MISS BETSY!
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A BIG ARENA AND EVERYTHING!
UH, OH--! ONE OF THOSE KIDS MUST HAVE LEFT HIS THERMOS!


NO PROBLEM, THOUGH. I'LL--
--HUH?!
YOU WILL DO NOTHING, JACKAL, BECAUSE YOU ARE WEAK!
JUST AS... THEY... ARE WEAK!
THEY FEAR ME BECAUSE I AM STRONG! THAT IS WHY THEY TRIED TO STEAL MY FREEDOM...
...AND EVERYTHING THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!
THEY BETRAYED ME JUST LIKE THEY BETRAYED CAESAR!



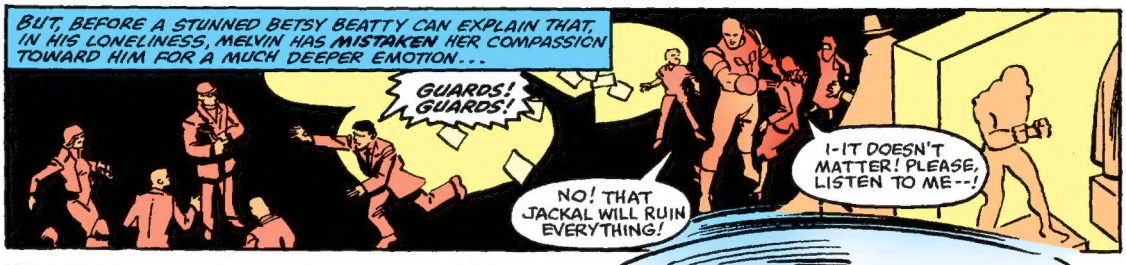
BUT MY ARMOR WILL PROTECT ME--
MY ARMOR AND MY WEAPONS--!
MELVIN!

MISS BETSY!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THAT...THAT COSTUME...

I FOLLOWED YOU, MISS BETSY, BECAUSE I KNOW THE TRUTH!
THE TRUTH? WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT, MISS BETSY?
LARRY, I WISH I KNEW...
WATCH OUT--! THOSE BLADES LOOK RAZOR SHARP!
OH, MY--! THIS IS... AHEM!...HIGHLY IRREGULAR!

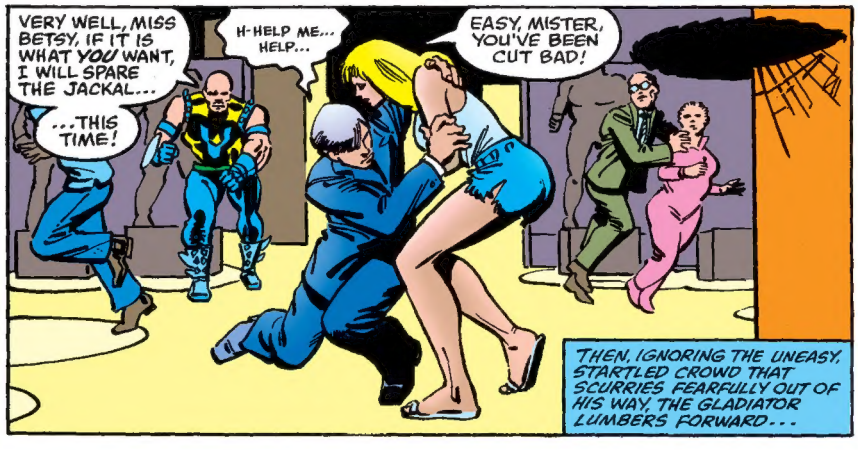
THE OTHERS FEAR ME, MISS BETSY! THEY FEAR ME AND THEY HATE ME!
BUT YOU ARE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS! YOU HAVE BEEN KIND TO ME--
-- SO THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO PRETEND!
PRETEND?

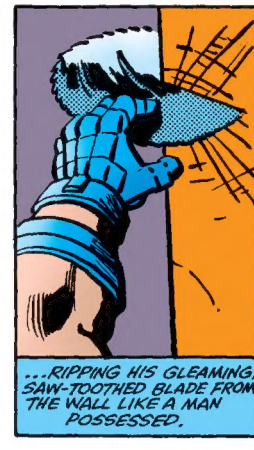
ADMIT IT, MISS BETSY, YOU LOVE ME BECAUSE I AM THE GLADIATOR!
WHAT?!

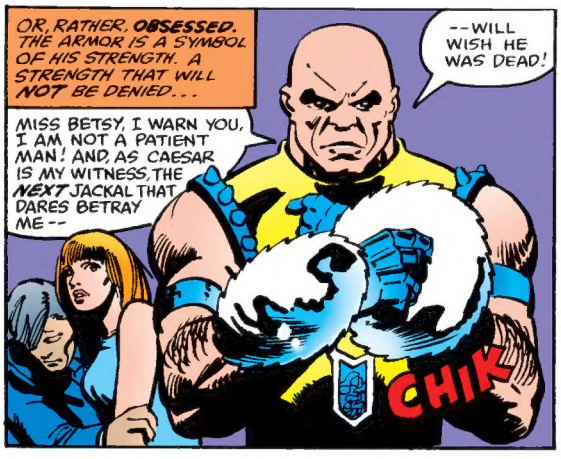

BUT, BEFORE A STUNNED BETSY BEATTY CAN EXPLAIN THAT, IN HIS LONELINESS, MELVIN HAS MISTAKEN HER COMPASSION TOWARD HIM FOR A MUCH DEEPER EMOTION...
GUARDS! GUARDS!
NO! THAT JACKAL WILL RUIN EVERYTHING!
I-IT DOESN'T MATTER! PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME--!

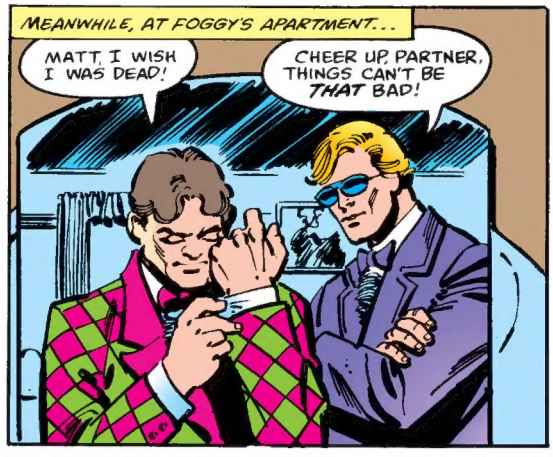
I WILL NOT BE BETRAYED!
NOT EVER AGAIN!
MELVIN, DON'T--! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
SHIK
PRESSING A HIDDEN STUD ON HIS FLEXIBLE STEEL GAUNTLET--

SHMM
HHHHHHHKKKK
KKK
--THE GLADIATOR LAUNCHES A WHIRLING, DEADLY-SHARP WRIST-BLADE THE LENGTH OF THE MUSEUM WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY...

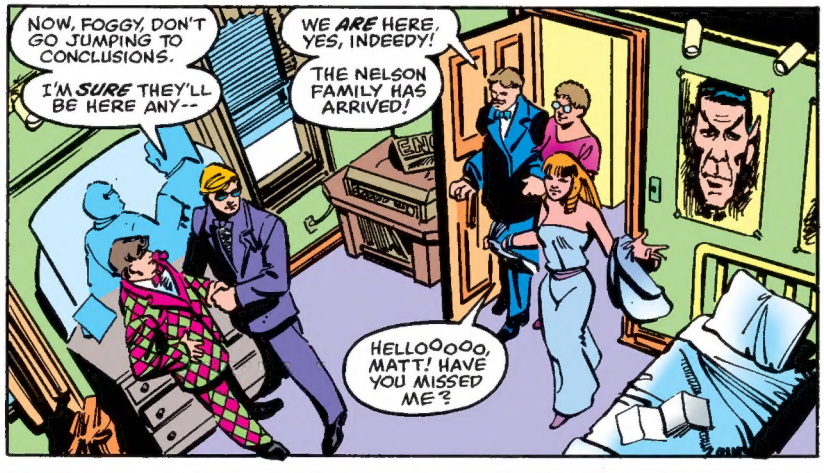

VERY WELL, MISS BETSY, IF IT IS WHAT YOU WANT, I WILL SPARE THE JACKAL...
...THIS TIME!
H-HELP ME... HELP...
EASY, MISTER, YOU'VE BEEN CUT BAD!
THEN, IGNORING THE UNEASY, STARTLED CROWD THAT SCURRIES FEARFULLY OUT OF HIS WAY, THE GLADIATOR LUMBERS FORWARD...

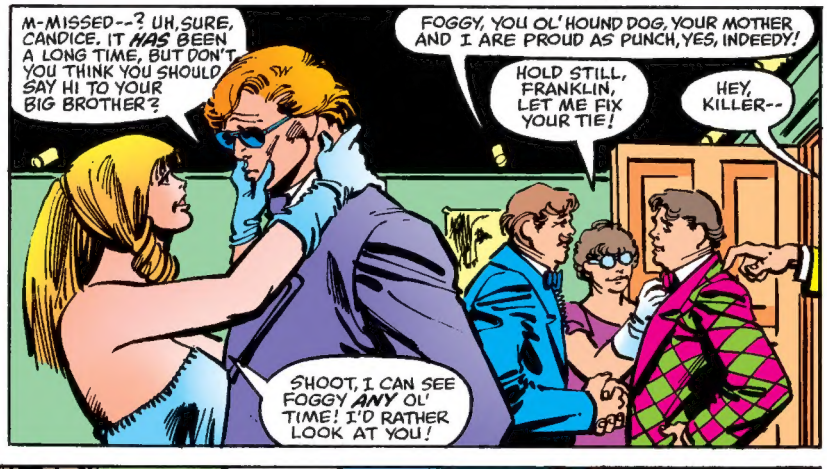

...RIPPING HIS GLEAMING, SAW-TOOTHED BLADE FROM THE WALL LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.


OR, RATHER, OBSESSED. THE ARMOR IS A SYMBOL OF HIS STRENGTH. A STRENGTH THAT WILL NOT BE DENIED...
MISS BETSY, I WARN YOU, I AM NOT A PATIENT MAN! AND, AS CAESAR IS MY WITNESS, THE NEXT JACKAL THAT DARES BETRAY ME--
--WILL WISH HE WAS DEAD!
CHIK

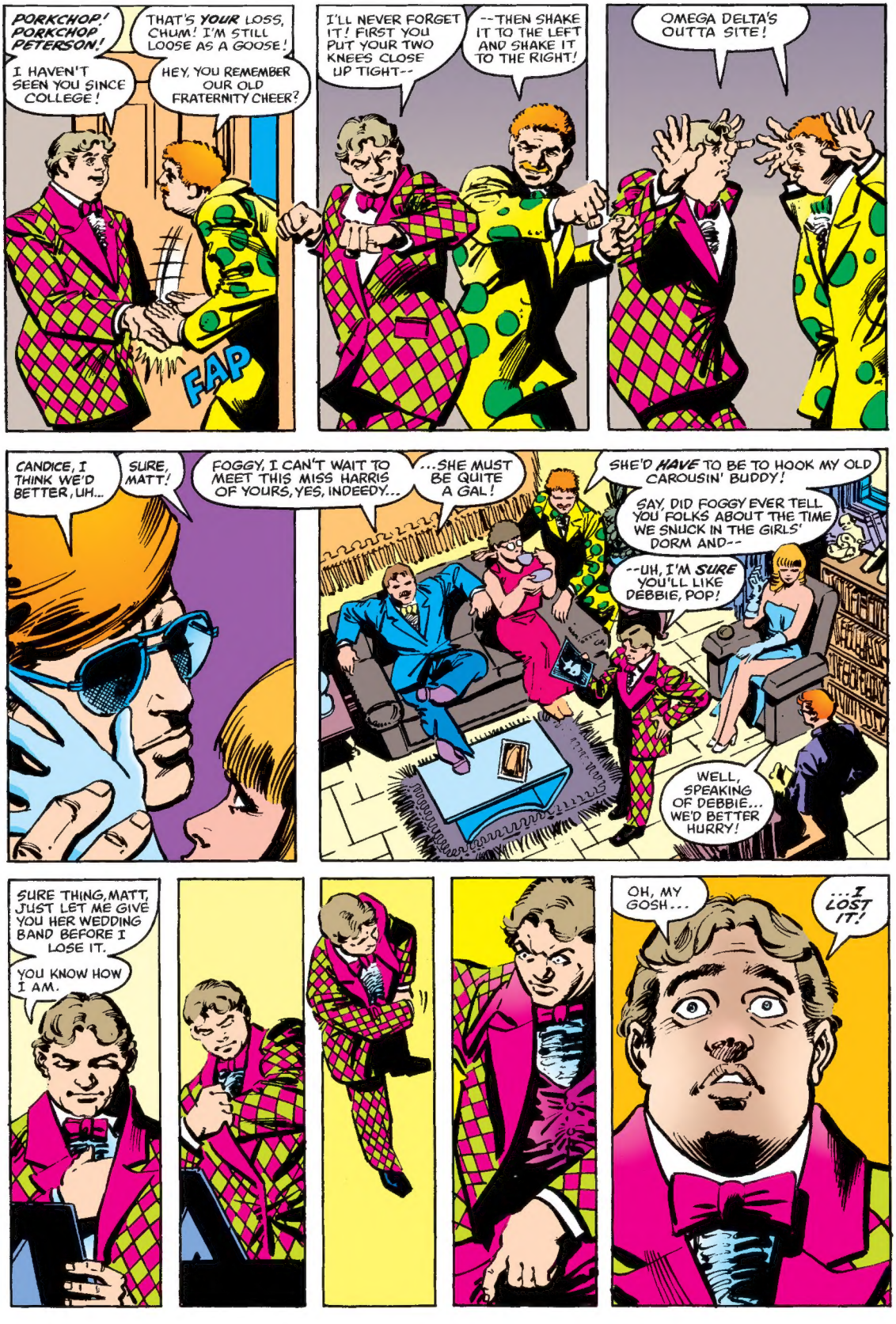

MEANWHILE, AT FOGGY'S APARTMENT...
MATT, I WISH I WAS DEAD!
CHEER UP, PARTNER, THINGS CAN'T BE THAT BAD!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOUR FOLKS AREN'T LATE FOR YOUR WEDDING! MINE ARE!
THEY WERE DUE IN FROM AKRON HOURS AGO! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG. I JUST KNOW IT HAS!

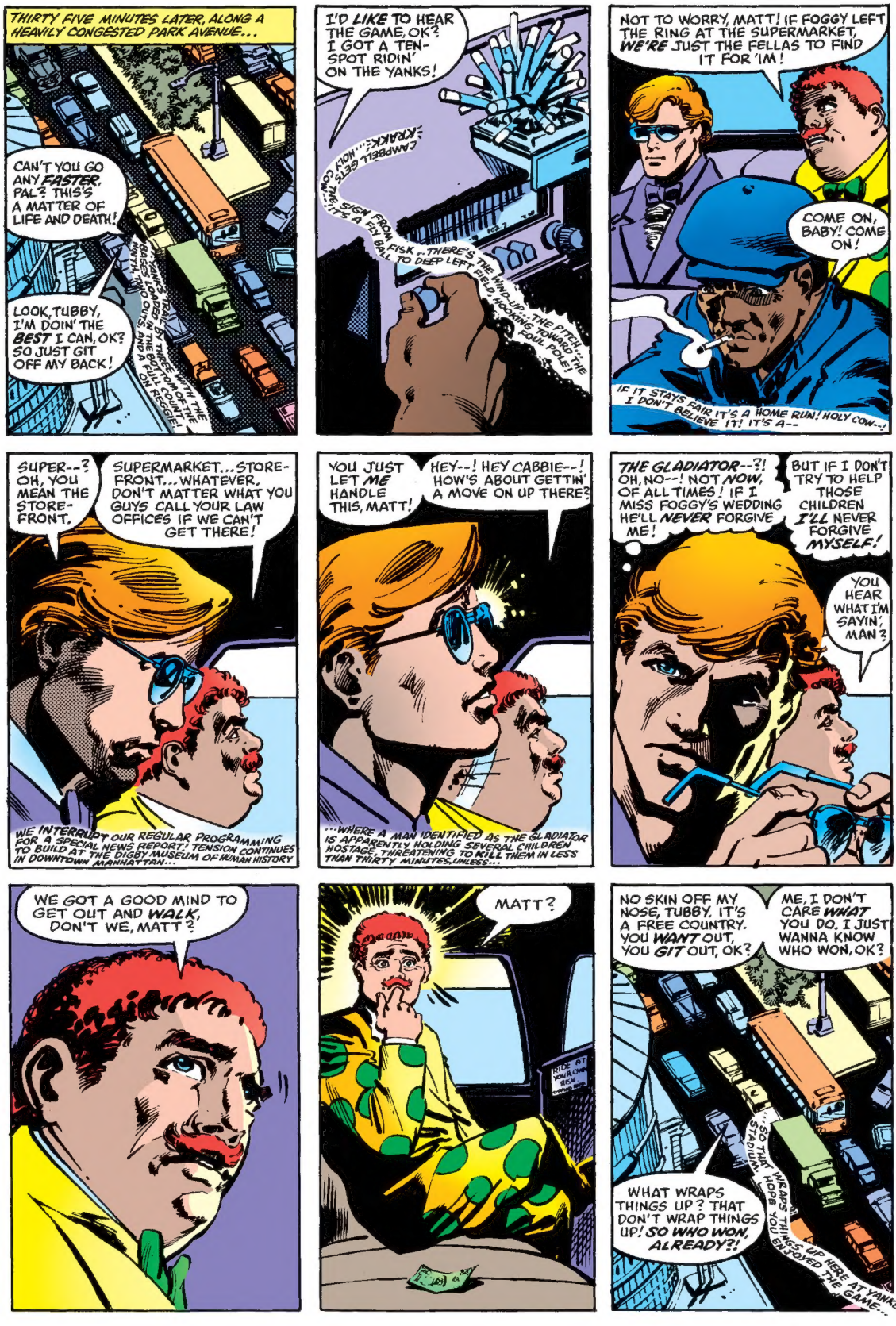

NOW, FOGGY, DON'T GO JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE HERE ANY--
WE ARE HERE, YES, INDEEDY!
THE NELSON FAMILY HAS ARRIVED!
HELLOOOOO, MATT! HAVE YOU MISSED ME?

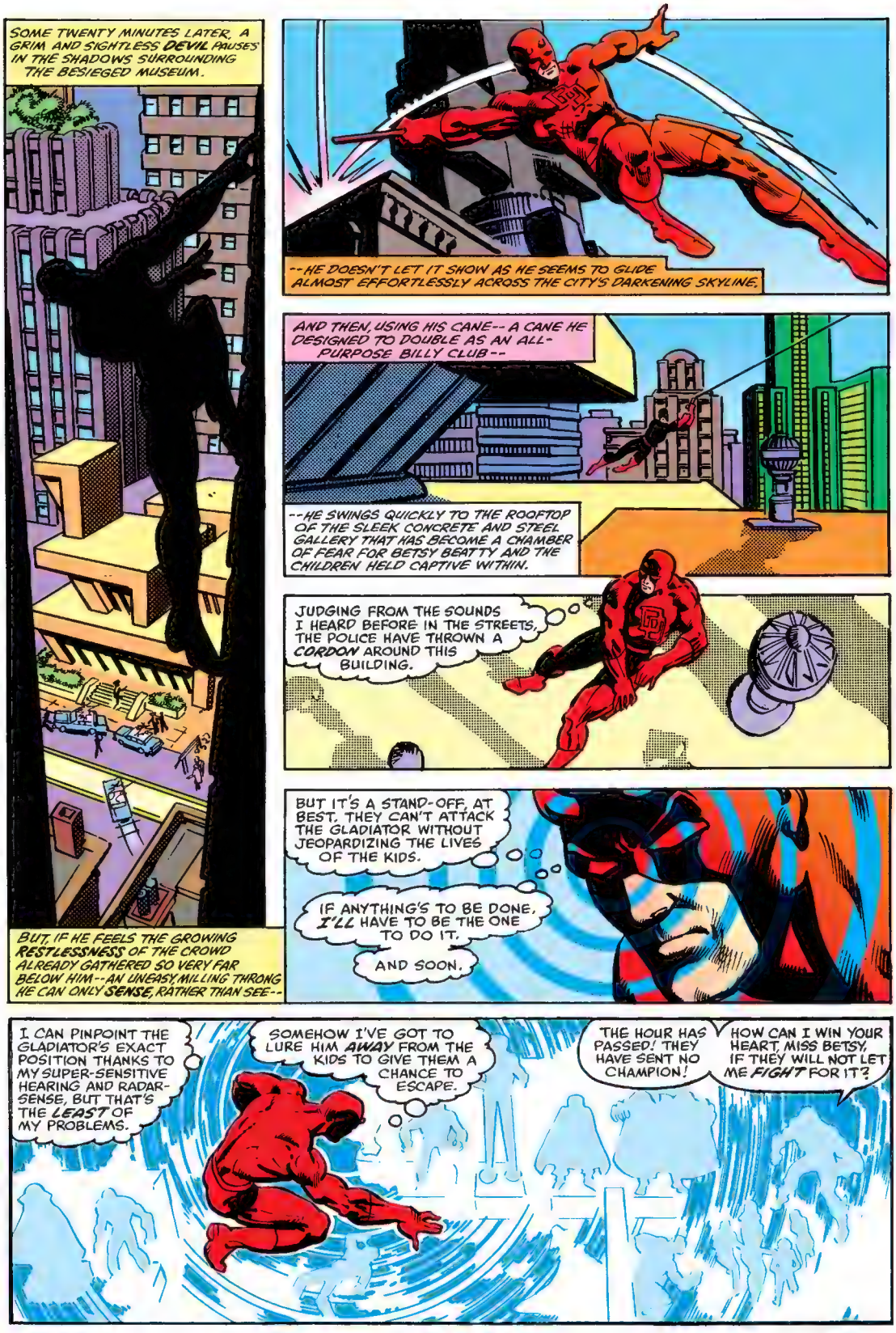

M-MISSED--? UH, SURE, CANDICE. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD SAY HI TO YOUR BIG BROTHER?
FOGGY, YOU OL' HOUND DOG, YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE PROUD AS PUNCH, YES, INDEEDY!
HOLD STILL, FRANKLIN, LET ME FIX YOUR TIE!
HEY, KILLER--
SHOOT, I CAN SEE FOGGY ANY OL' TIME! I'D RATHER LOOK AT YOU!

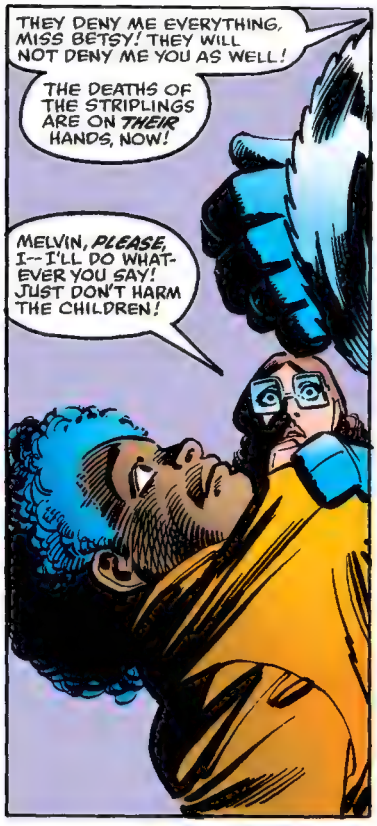
HUH--? OWW!
HOW'S TRICKS?


PORKCHOP! PORKCHOP PETERSON!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE COLLEGE!
THAT'S YOUR LOSS, CHUM! I'M STILL LOOSE AS A GOOSE!
HEY, YOU REMEMBER OUR OLD FRATERNITY CHEER?
FAP
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT! FIRST YOU PUT YOUR TWO KNEES CLOSE UP TIGHT--
--THEN SHAKE IT TO THE LEFT AND SHAKE IT TO THE RIGHT!
OMEGA DELTA'S OUTTA SITE!
CANDICE, I THINK WE'D BETTER, UH...
SURE, MATT!
FOGGY, I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THIS MISS HARRIS OF YOURS, YES, INDEEDY...
...SHE MUST BE QUITE A GAL!
SHE'D HAVE TO BE TO HOOK MY OLD CAROUSIN' BUDDY!
SAY, DID FOGGY EVER TELL YOU FOLKS ABOUT THE TIME WE SNUCK IN THE GIRLS' DORM AND--
--UH, I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE DEBBIE, POP!
WELL, SPEAKING OF DEBBIE... WE'D BETTER HURRY!
SURE THING, MATT, JUST LET ME GIVE YOU HER WEDDING BAND BEFORE I LOSE IT.
YOU KNOW HOW I AM.
OH, MY GOSH...
...I LOST IT!

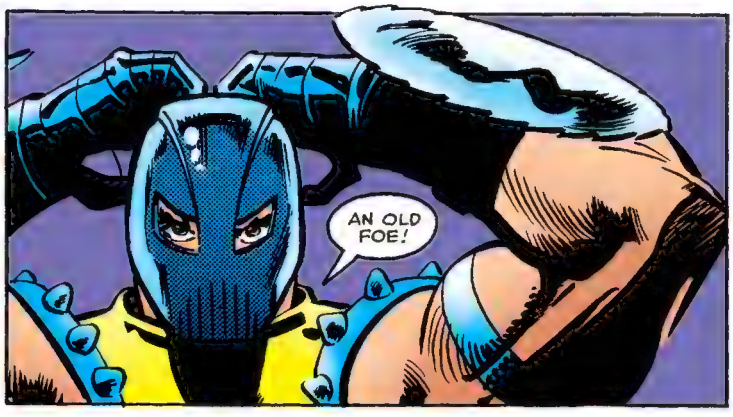
MEANWHILE...
GET OUT OF HERE! RUN! THE GLADIATOR HAS TAKEN OVER THE MUSEUM! HE'S HOLDING SOME KIDS HOSTAGE!
HE ALMOST KILLED ONE MAN ALREADY!
YOU HEARD ME, STRIPLING! DELIVER THAT MESSAGE TO THE AUTHORITIES WITHOUT DELAY!
THEY HAVE ONE HOUR TO SEND A CHAMPION TO BATTLE ME-- OR I WILL SLAY YOUR FRIENDS ONE-BY-ONE!
K-KILL THE CHILDREN?! MY GOD, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE SERIOUS! I WAS LOST UNTIL I MET YOU, BUT NOW I HAVE SOMETHING... SOMEONE... TO FIGHT FOR!
AND, BY THE HOLY EMPIRE, I WILL FIGHT!
F-FIGHT--? BUT, MELVIN, WHY? THERE'S NO REASON TO--
THERE IS EVERY REASON, MISS BETSY!
MMMFF--?!
DON'T EVER... EVER... TOUCH ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
SMAK
I AM THE GLADIATOR! THE GLADIATOR! AND YOU DARE REJECT ME? IT IS UNTHINKABLE, UNLESS--
--YES, OF COURSE, I UNDERSTAND NOW! I MUST PROVE MYSELF IN COMBAT!
THEN SO BE IT, MISS BETSY! IF YOU WANT A WARRIOR YOU SHALL HAVE ONE!
ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO LET THE CHILDREN GO FREE--! PLEASE, MELVIN, JUST LET THEM GO...


THIRTY FIVE MINUTES LATER, ALONG A HEAVILY CONGESTED PARK AVENUE...
CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER, PAL? THIS'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
LOOK, TUBBY, I'M DOIN' THE BEST I CAN, OK? SO JUST GIT OFF MY BACK!
YANKS TRAILING BY THREE WITH THE BASES LOADED, TWO OUTS AND A FULL COUNT! MATTY, YOU CAN'T BUT REGGIE!
I'D LIKE TO HEAR THE GAME, OK? I GOT A TEN-SPOT RIDIN' ON THE YANKS!
CAMPBELL GETS SIGN FROM FISK -- THERE'S THE WIND-UP... THE PITCH... A FLY BALL TO DEEP LEFT FIELD... HOOKING TOWARD THE FOUL POLE!
KRAKK!... HOLY COW!
NOT TO WORRY, MATT! IF FOGGY LEFT THE RING AT THE SUPERMARKET, WE'RE JUST THE FELLAS TO FIND IT FOR 'IM!
COME ON, BABY! COME ON!
IF IT STAYS FAIR IT'S A HOME RUN! HOLY COW--! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S A--
SUPER--? OH, YOU MEAN THE STORE-FRONT.
SUPERMARKET... STORE-FRONT... WHATEVER. DON'T MATTER WHAT YOU GUYS CALL YOUR LAW OFFICES IF WE CAN'T GET THERE!
WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING FOR A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT! TENSION CONTINUES TO BUILD AT THE DIGBY MUSEUM OF HUMAN HISTORY IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN...
YOU JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS, MATT!
HEY--! HEY CABBIE--! HOW'S ABOUT GETTIN' A MOVE ON UP THERE?
...WHERE A MAN IDENTIFIED AS THE GLADIATOR IS APPARENTLY HOLDING SEVERAL CHILDREN HOSTAGE THREATENING TO KILL THEM IN LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES, UNLESS...
THE GLADIATOR--?! OH, NO--! NOT NOW, OF ALL TIMES! IF I MISS FOGGY'S WEDDING HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME!
BUT IF I DON'T TRY TO HELP THOSE CHILDREN I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYIN', MAN?
WE GOT A GOOD MIND TO GET OUT AND WALK, DON'T WE, MATT?
MATT?
NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE, TUBBY. IT'S A FREE COUNTRY. YOU WANT OUT, YOU GIT OUT, OK?
ME, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO. I JUST WANNA KNOW WHO WON, OK?
WHAT WRAPS THINGS UP? THAT DON'T WRAP THINGS UP! SO WHO WON, ALREADY?!
...SO THAT WRAPS THINGS UP HERE AT YANKEE STADIUM. HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE GAME...

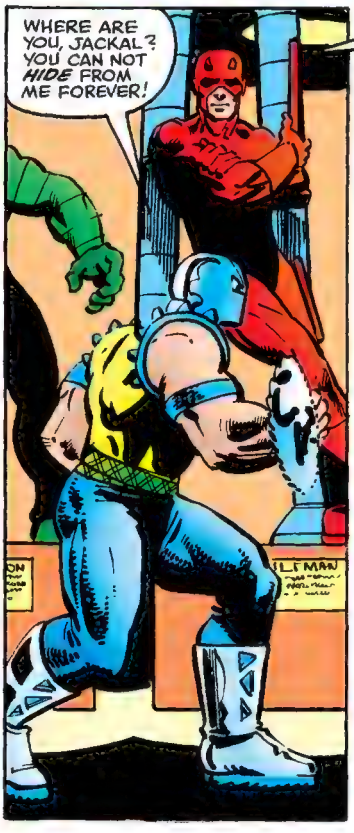

SOME TWENTY MINUTES LATER, A GRIM AND SIGHTLESS DEVIL PAUSES IN THE SHADOWS SURROUNDING THE BESIEGED MUSEUM.
--HE DOESN'T LET IT SHOW AS HE SEEMS TO GLIDE ALMOST EFFORTLESSLY ACROSS THE CITY'S DARKENING SKYLINE.
AND THEN, USING HIS CANE-- A CANE HE DESIGNED TO DOUBLE AS AN ALL-PURPOSE BILLY CLUB--
--HE SWINGS QUICKLY TO THE ROOFTOP OF THE SLEEK CONCRETE AND STEEL GALLERY THAT HAS BECOME A CHAMBER OF FEAR FOR BETSY BEATTY AND THE CHILDREN HELD CAPTIVE WITHIN.
JUDGING FROM THE SOUNDS I HEARD BEFORE IN THE STREETS, THE POLICE HAVE THROWN A CORDON AROUND THIS BUILDING.
BUT, IF HE FEELS THE GROWING RESTLESSNESS OF THE CROWD ALREADY GATHERED SO VERY FAR BELOW HIM--AN UNEASY, MILLING THRONG HE CAN ONLY SENSE, RATHER THAN SEE--
BUT IT'S A STAND-OFF, AT BEST. THEY CAN'T ATTACK THE GLADIATOR WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE LIVES OF THE KIDS.
IF ANYTHING'S TO BE DONE, I'LL HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
AND SOON.
I CAN PINPOINT THE GLADIATOR'S EXACT POSITION THANKS TO MY SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING AND RADAR-SENSE, BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS.
SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO LURE HIM AWAY FROM THE KIDS TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
THE HOUR HAS PASSED! THEY HAVE SENT NO CHAMPION!
HOW CAN I WIN YOUR HEART, MISS BETSY, IF THEY WILL NOT LET ME FIGHT FOR IT?


THEY DENY ME EVERYTHING, MISS BETSY! THEY WILL NOT DENY ME YOU AS WELL!
THE DEATHS OF THE STRIPLINGS ARE ON THEIR HANDS, NOW!
MELVIN, PLEASE, I--I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY! JUST DON'T HARM THE CHILDREN!

THEN, THE NEXT INSTANT...
YOU HEARD THE LADY!
WHO'S THAT?


AN OLD FOE!

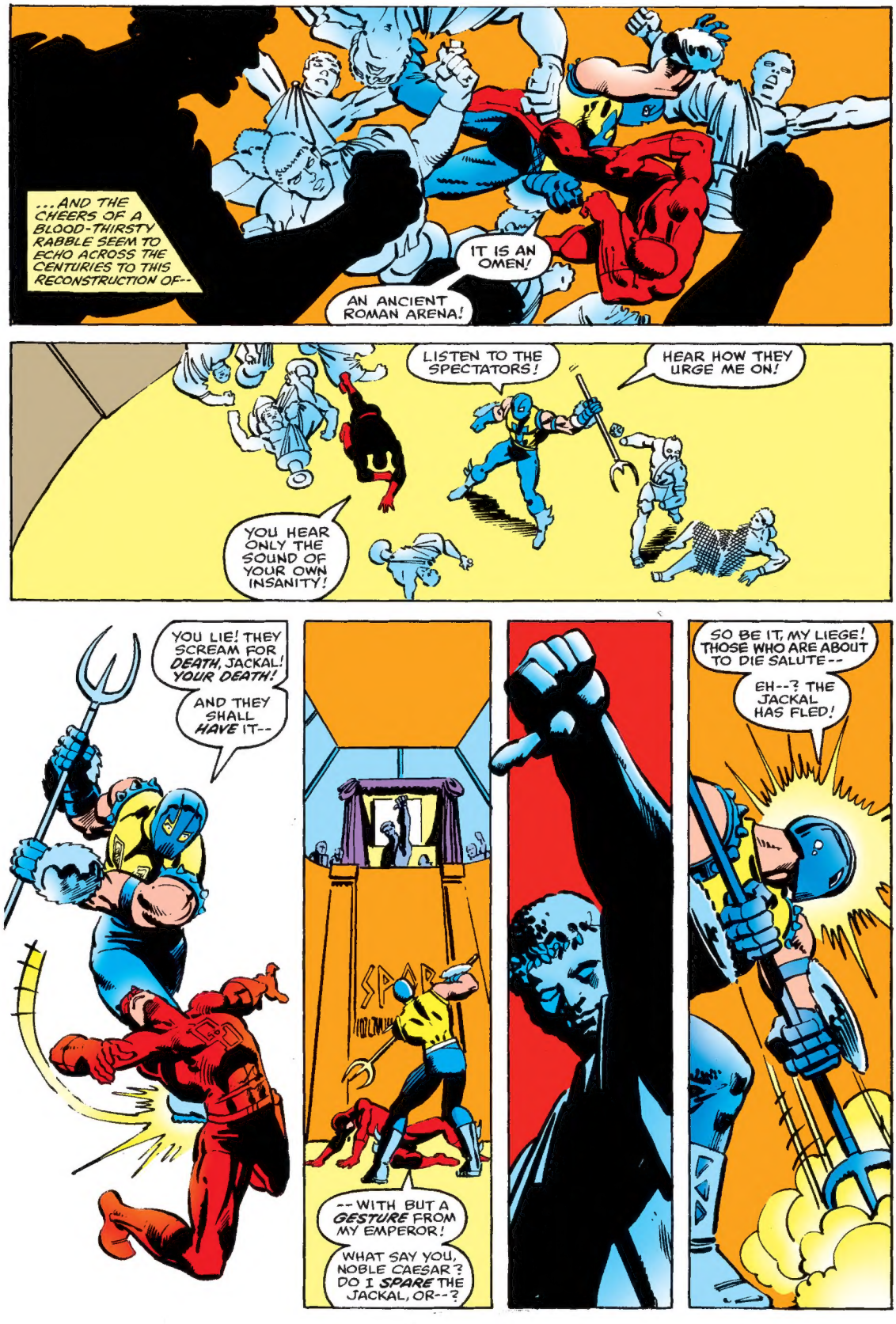
I KNOW HIS VOICE!
IT IS THE VOICE OF A DEVIL!


WHERE ARE YOU, JACKAL? YOU CAN NOT HIDE FROM ME FOREVER!

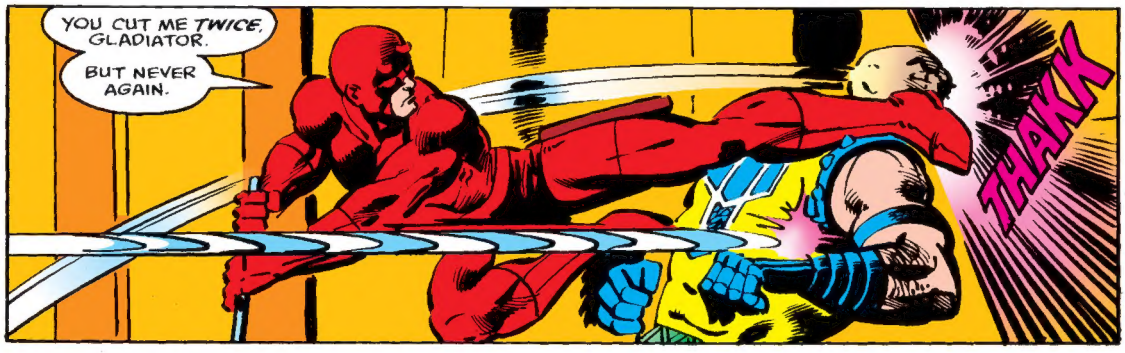
WHO'S HIDING?
ZZZZRRR

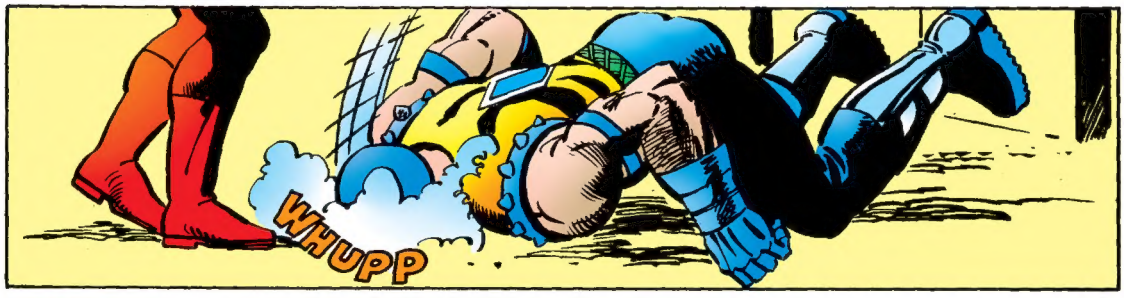
I'M NOT A CHILD YOU CAN FRIGHTEN OR BULLY, GLADIATOR.
SHRAKK
STILTMAN
I PLAY FOR KEEPS.
IF YOU THINK THIS IS SOME SORT OF GAME, JACKAL--
--YOU ARE SADLY MISTAKEN!
--BUT EVEN A TANK CAN BE STOPPED.
HE'S LIKE A TANK IN THAT HEAVY ARMOR--

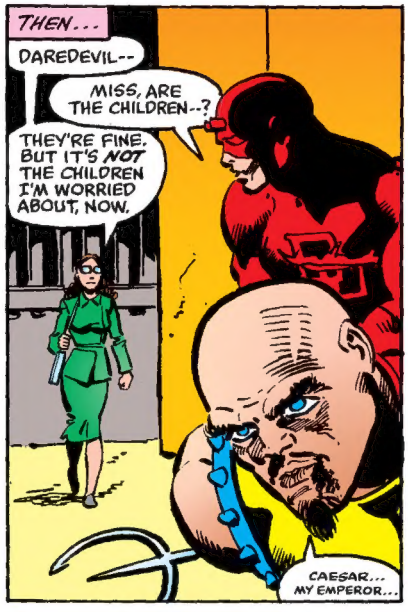
THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE KILLED AN ORDINARY MAN, IT DIDN'T EVEN STUN THE GLADIATOR.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HIS REACH BEFORE UNGHH!
YOU ARE SWIFT, JACKAL! MY SLASHING BLADE MERELY GRAZED YOU!
BUT THE LION IS SWIFTER-- AND FAR MORE DEADLY!
IN COMBAT THE LION ALWAYS SLAYS THE JACKAL!
AND YOU, DEVIL, YOU ARE THE JACKAL!
HURRY, CHILDREN! RUN!
YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN ANYTHING ELSE!
ARENA
WHAT!? YOU STILL STRUGGLE? YOU FOOL, YOU'VE KNOCKED ME OFF-BALANCE! WE'RE GOING TO--
CAESAR'S BLOOD!
LOCKED IN A DEATHGRIP, THEY TOPPLE BACKWARD... AND IT IS AS IF TIME ITSELF SHATTERS THEN, LIKE A PANE OF GLASS...


...AND THE CHEERS OF A BLOOD-THIRSTY RABBLE SEEM TO ECHO ACROSS THE CENTURIES TO THIS RECONSTRUCTION OF--
IT IS AN OMEN!
AN ANCIENT ROMAN ARENA!
LISTEN TO THE SPECTATORS!
HEAR HOW THEY URGE ME ON!
YOU HEAR ONLY THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN INSANITY!
YOU LIE! THEY SCREAM FOR DEATH, JACKAL! YOUR DEATH!
AND THEY SHALL HAVE IT--
--WITH BUT A GESTURE FROM MY EMPEROR!
WHAT SAY YOU, NOBLE CAESAR? DO I SPARE THE JACKAL, OR--?
SO BE IT, MY LIEGE! THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE SALUTE--
EH--? THE JACKAL HAS FLED!

DON'T BET ON IT, GLADIATOR. RUNNING ISN'T MY STYLE.
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HE GAVE ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO CATCH MY BREATH... AND I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO STOP HIM.
KATHANNG
MY HELMET--! BUT THAT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, JACKAL!
EVEN WITHOUT MY HEAD-GEAR, MY ARMOR MAKES ME MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOU--
--UUNGH!
THOK
ARMOR IS ONLY A SHELL--
THAK
THOK
--NO GOOD WITHOUT A MAN INSIDE!
STRONG AS HE IS, HE CAN ONLY WITHSTAND SO MUCH PUNISHMENT--
AND IF I KEEP STRIKING HIS PRESSURE POINTS...
IT'S WORKING. HE'S NEARLY OUT ON HIS FEET.
YOU... FOUGHT WELL... DEVIL. BETTER THAN... I HAD... EXPECTED.
YOU... HAVE EARNED...
...A WARRIOR'S DEATH...
WHIRRR
QUICK... CLEAN...
...HONORABLE...
CHOK

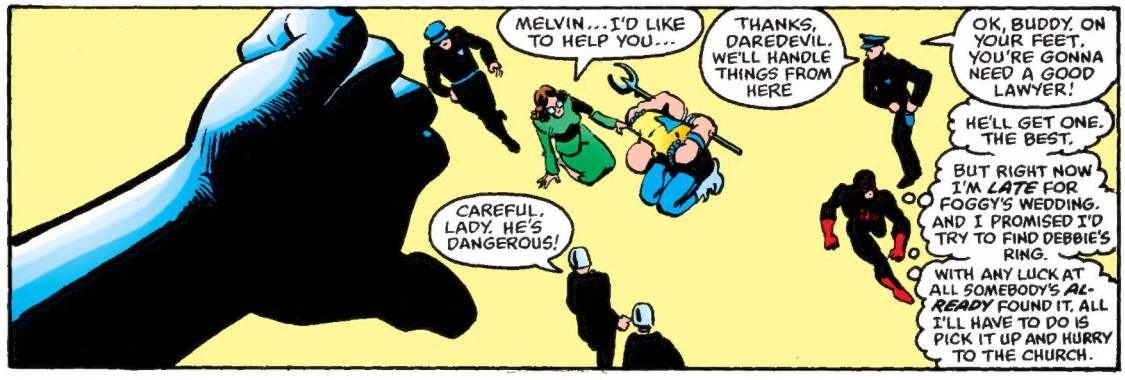

YOU CUT ME TWICE, GLADIATOR.
BUT NEVER AGAIN.
THAKK


WHUPP


THEN...
DAREDEVIL--
MISS, ARE THE CHILDREN--?
THEY'RE FINE. BUT IT'S NOT THE CHILDREN I'M WORRIED ABOUT, NOW.
CAESAR... MY EMPEROR...

IT'S MELVIN. IN MANY RESPECTS HE IS A CHILD. A TERRIBLY LONELY AND BITTER CHILD. HE REACHED OUT FOR LOVE IN THE ONLY WAY HE KNEW.
NOW, MORE THAN EVER, HE NEEDS UNDER-STANDING.

"AND A HELPING HAND..."


MELVIN...I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU...
THANKS, DAREDEVIL. WE'LL HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE
OK, BUDDY. ON YOUR FEET. YOU'RE GONNA NEED A GOOD LAWYER!
HE'LL GET ONE. THE BEST.
BUT RIGHT NOW I'M LATE FOR FOGGY'S WEDDING. AND I PROMISED I'D TRY TO FIND DEBBIE'S RING.
WITH ANY LUCK AT ALL SOMEBODY'S ALREADY FOUND IT. ALL I'LL HAVE TO DO IS PICK IT UP AND HURRY TO THE CHURCH.
CAREFUL, LADY. HE'S DANGEROUS!

AND SO...
...IF THERE IS ANYONE WITH GOOD REASON WHY THESE TWO SHOULD NOT BE WED IN HOLY MATRIMONY, LET HIM SPEAK NOW OR--
FOGGY! AM I TOO LATE?

NEARLY, MATT, NEARLY! I STALLED AS LONG AS I COULD.
JUST GIVE ME THE RING AND--
THAT'S JUST IT, FOGGY.

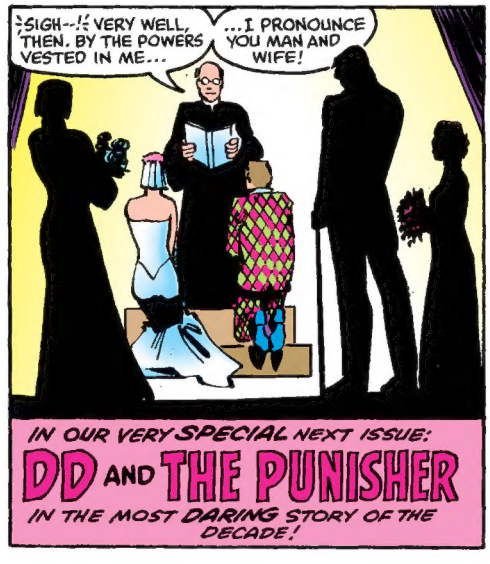
BECKY AND I TURNED THE STOREFRONT UP-SIDE DOWN BUT WE COULDN'T FIND IT! I'M SORRY...

OH, NO--! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
IF I COULD ONLY REMEMBER WHERE I--

--PUT IT--!?

UH, GUESS WHAT, MATT...

MISS HARRIS, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, REVEREND!


SIGH--! VERY WELL, THEN. BY THE POWERS VESTED IN ME...
...I PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
IN OUR VERY SPECIAL NEXT ISSUE:
DD AND THE PUNISHER
IN THE MOST DARING STORY OF THE DECADE!